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### SOIL CONSERVATION MAKES RAPID PROGRESS

That 82 percent of the crop land of the country is now being protected against soil loss under the Agricultural Conservation Program, is indicated by the estimates of County Committees and State Conservation offices all over the country. The participation in the Conservation Program in 1939 is far higher than in any previous year.

### CROP ALLOTMENT PROGRAM WORKS

"As evidence of the success of the acreage allotment plan, let me cite two sets of figures: first, the acreages which the program set out to have planted, and second, the acreages reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as the acreages that it is now estimated will be harvested this year; for corn the goal was 94 million acres to be planted, the actual acreage for harvest is 91 million; cotton, the goal 27 million acres to be planted, the actual, 25 million acres to be harvested; for wheat, 55 million acres to be planted, the actual 55 million acres to be harvested; potatoes, 3.1 million acres to be planted, the actual 3.1 million acres to be harvested." (Director A. W. Manchester in August 18 broadcast from Station WGY)

### GOOD RESPONSE REPORTED TO DROUGHT SEED OFFER

Reports from the drought areas are that the offer of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to supply seed for the reseeding of fields on which legumes and grasses planted last spring have been killed by the drought, has been very favorably received. In the worst areas, county offices have been crowded with applicants.

There is reason to believe that the promptness with which this emergency was met will aid greatly in getting the drought-stricken farms back into normal condition by next spring. It should do much to aid soil conservation in these areas.

## EVER-NORMAL GRANARY GROWS

The purchase by the Department of Agriculture of 25,000 steel grain bins for the storage of corn at country points in the commercial corn-producing area holds a considerable element of protection for Northeast dairymen and poultrymen. The bins, ranging from 1,000 to 2,000 bushels in size, with a total capacity of more than 43,000,000 bushels, will be used to store corn which may be delivered to the Commodity Credit Corporation in settlement of maturing corn loans. The program is part of the Ever Normal Granary and is designed to hold off the market all of the 257 million bushels of 1937 and 1938 corn under Government loan. History shows that surpluses of corn with their resulting low prices react disastrously to the dairy and poultry industries because of the increase in milk and egg production by corn belt farmers made in an effort to bolster their dropping farm income. The stored product is to be held as protection against shortage and excessive prices in years of low yield.

## FOOD STAMP PLAN TO BE EXTENDED

The food stamp plan for distributing surplus agricultural commodities, started in Rochester, N.Y., last May and since then extended to other cities, has shown results which decided the Department of Agriculture gradually to extend it to additional cities.

The plan of distribution provides people on relief with orange and blue stamps for the purchase of food. Orange stamps are bought on the basis of a minimum of one dollar's worth of stamps per week for each member of the family. For each dollar's worth of orange stamps, the individual receives without cost 50¢ worth of blue stamps to buy certain commodities which are designated as surplus by the Department. These stamps can be used in retail food stores in cities where the stamp plan operates. Direct distribution of surplus commodities to people on relief by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation is discontinued in these cities.

A study of the plan as it has worked out in Rochester brings out several facts: Participation has increased steadily since the experiment started; stamp users have bought in quantities to meet their immediate needs and express satisfaction with being able to select the commodities they wanted from the surplus list; needy persons using the stamps are getting not only a more adequate diet, but in most cases a better balanced diet; the increased volume of trade in grocery stores has stimulated many other lines of business in the community; food sales in Rochester have increased beyond the amount represented by the stamp purchases.

During the two-month period May 16 to July 15, blue stamp purchases of surplus commodities in Rochester totaled about \$123,000. Commodities designated as surplus included butter, eggs, white and graham flour, prunes, dried beans, corn meal, oranges and grapefruit.



### AAA PROGRAM SAVES COTTON AND WHEAT PRICES

"Counting all payments, the cotton farmer realized around 13 cents a pound for his last year's crop of cotton in spite of the mountains of surplus bales that we read about. As for wheat - in the face of a tremendous world supply, and because of the farm program, the price to the American wheat farmer right now is at least 30 cents a bushel more than he normally gets on a world market like the present. The farmer cooperating with the program is actually realizing 85 cents or more per bushel for his wheat." *(Director A. W. Manchester in August 18 broadcast from Station WGY)*

### FSCC BUYING SURPLUS VEGETABLES

The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation again this year is buying commercial fresh vegetables at farmers' markets in producing areas near consuming centers during periods of surplus production, thus continuing a similar program which operated in several of the Northeastern states last year. Working with the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation in this program is the Northeastern Vegetable and Potato Council, an organization of growers who represent producer groups in the several commercial vegetable areas in the region. The surplus vegetables purchased by the FSCC are turned over to state relief agencies for distribution to needy people.

### SEPTEMBER 30 WHEAT INSURANCE DEADLINE

September 30 is the final date for acceptance of applications and premium payments from wheat growers in New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey who wish to insure their 1940 winter wheat crop with the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

This year the wheat grower can learn the amount of his insurance and the amount of his premium at the time he prepares his application. Also new this year is a provision which enables the grower to charge his premium against his AAA payment instead of making a cash payment at the time he applies for insurance. This method of writing applications for insurance on the 1940 wheat crop is simplified so that the application will also serve as the insurance contract.

### AAA SHORTS

The AAA in 1939 is helping farmers in nearly half the States to improve their pastures and conserve their soil by offering lime and superphosphate in place of cash payments for conservation practices. -- *(National Farm & Home Hour Radio program)*

Approximately 29 million acres of new seedings of legumes and grasses and mixtures of these were established on all farms participating in the 1937 AAA Program.-- *(Annual Report, AAA, 1938)*

## NEW FACES IN NORTHEAST FAMILY

We introduce several new members of the AAA state families in the Northeast Region.

In New Jersey, James C. Ewart, whose farm in Cranbury is located in the state's intensive potato growing area, becomes a member of the state committee. Jersey also has a new state executive officer, Charles A. Thompson, for 19 years the county agent in Burlington County.

Dwight J. Minor is a new member of the state committee in Connecticut. On his 200 acre dairy and fruit farm in Bristol he is milking a herd of 60 Guernseys, and has about 20 acres in apples and young peaches. Mr. Minor has established a record as manager for nearly 25 years of one of the oldest and most successful local farmers' supply cooperatives in New England.

A new member of the state committee in Maine is Robert Boothby of Livermore Falls, who owns a general farm of between 800 and 900 acres. He has a dairy herd and sheep, and grows fruit, potatoes, and canning crops.

Massachusetts adds the name of Arthur C. Bardwell to its state committee list. Mr. Bardwell's 100 acre farm in Hatfield is located in the intensive tobacco and onion growing area of the Connecticut River Valley.

New Hampshire can claim the distinction of having perhaps the youngest state committeeman in the region. Albert H. Fletcher of Walpole, recently appointed, is only 30 years old, but has been operating his own 310 acre farm since 1932. About one-third of his acreage is in cropland. Mr. Fletcher has an Ayrshire herd of 60 to 70 head.

All of these new state committeemen have done outstanding work as members of county committees.

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Everett H. F. Felber, junior field officer in the Connecticut State office at Hartford, is now located in the northeast regional office in Washington as associate economist with C. I. Hendrickson. He and Dr. Hendrickson will work with county offices throughout the region in ironing out problems concerned with allotment procedure.

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## LOST MARKETS

One reason the farm surplus problem has been chronic ever since the World War is the disappearance of markets overseas for the products of 40 million acres.

A factor which has helped make the farm problem chronic since the World War, is the loss of a domestic market for feed formerly grown on 35 million acres through the displacement of the horse by machines.---Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace.